

More than artist, Miss Barnas has, with the help of Dr. Alfredo Paredes, Professor of Botany at the University of Quito, made her "specimens" useful to the botanist by grouping them in families and giving determinations with each.

The artist herself, born in Frankfurt-am-Main of Czech and Dutch parentage, lived nine years in Ecuador, learned painting from her landscape-painter father, and developed her interest in the portrayal of equatorial plant life from a hobby into a serious art and science. Coming to the United States, she studied two years at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, taking several prizes. Her work was shown this year by invitation at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Miss Barnas' paintings will be shown at the Academy for the next several weeks.



#### NEW DIET FOR BIKINI CRAB

THE LONE SURVIVOR of the two "atomic" coconut crabs (*Birgus latro*) from Bikini is thriving in his tank in the Central Court of the Aquarium on a diet of raw horse heart, says Dr. John L. Kask, curator of Aquatic Biology. The erstwhile eater of coconuts, exclusively, required the inducement of dim light and a bed of damp gunny sacks to break a hunger strike and accept a change of diet.

One recent Sunday, with Dr. Kask tallying, four hundred out of four thousand visitors to the Steinhart Aquarium inquired for the crabs. Given to the Academy by Doctors Douglas M. Whitaker and G. M. Smith of Stanford University, these survivors of Operation Crossroads have enjoyed the usual publicity attending celebrities. Investigation has not revealed the cause of one crab's death.



#### BUSY BOTANISTS

LEST some Members who not only read the News Letter but are botanists or just particular lovers of trees, wild flowers, and all green growing things accuse the editors of neglecting one of the departments for which the Academy is deservedly noted—may we report, with due respect, the following typical monthly conversation:

Editors (after threading our way through the high stacks of herbarium cases, and plant presses fresh from the field): "We'd like to put something in the News Letter this month about Botany . . . ?"

Assistant Curator (pleasantly): "Why, yes—we're just too busy right now to think of anything special, but if something interesting comes up we'll be glad to let you know."

A steady flow of valuable scientific papers is the Botany Department's answer.

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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Photograph by Otis Marston

GRAND CANYON—1947

(See page 2)

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# CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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## *December Announcement*

THE REGULAR DECEMBER MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in North American Hall, West Wing of the Academy Buildings in Golden Gate Park, on Wednesday evening, December 17, 1947, at 8 o'clock. The lecture of the evening, given jointly by Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Farquhar, with color slides and moving pictures, will be titled

### GRAND CANYON FROM THE BOTTOM

In a letter to the Director accepting the Academy's invitation to speak, Mr. Farquhar, Treasurer of the Academy, a director and past President of the Sierra Club, says: "Riding the waves through the Grand Canyon is still an unusual experience. Probably less than one hundred people in all time have gone this way.

"Mrs. Farquhar and I began our trip with Norman Nevills' Expedition last summer at Lees Ferry and rode the river for ninety miles through the Canyon as far as Bright Angel Creek. . . . We passed through Marble Canyon with its enormously high cliffs ascending directly from the river and made stopovers at such interesting places as Vasey's Paradise and the junction of the Little Colorado with the main Colorado River. There we saw the rare sight of the blue waters of the Little Colorado mingling with the chocolate colored waters of the main stream. Very few have ever seen these clear blue waters, as ordinarily the Little Colorado carries a red mud from above which entirely obliterates the waters of the blue spring fifteen miles above the junction. The pictures taken this year were probably the first in color of this rare phenomenon.

"Mrs. Farquhar took most of the motion pictures, including the best ones of the rapids. There is nothing quite like the Colorado rapids for excitement. I hope the audience won't be disappointed because 'there were no wrecks and nobody was drowned,' but they will get enough thrills without the mortalities."

The public is cordially invited.

### DESERT MAGAZINE FEATURES NORMAN NEVILLS

A DETAILED narrative of this Norman Nevills Expedition through the hazardous cataracts of the Grand Canyon gorge—written by Randall Henderson, Desert editor—will run serially in four instalments in *The Desert Magazine*, beginning with the November 1947 issue.

Members of the Academy will enjoy this series on the exploits of their fellow-members, the Farquhars and Norman Nevills. The title: "Through Grand Canyon with America's Famous Boatman, Norman Nevills."

## APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its December meeting approved the applications of Mr. Morton J. Bachrach, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bechtel, Mr. A. H. Brawner, Mr. W. P. F. Brawner, Miss Isabel L. Davis, Mr. James A. Dick, Mrs. William Durham, Mr. Richard B. Irwin, Mrs. D. E. Koshland, Mrs. Marcus S. Koshland, Mr. Joseph J. Marquis, Mrs. Grace E. Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Oakes, Mrs. F. Somers Peterson, and Mr. Charles J. Stewart for MEMBERSHIP, and of Ann Ankersmit, Worth Barton, Richard Ross, and Robert Shapro for STUDENT MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after December 15, they will be considered elected.



### MOOSE WILL JOIN ACADEMY

FROM THEIR HOME GROUNDS in the muskeg and windfalls of the wild Canadian Northwest, two moose, bull and cow, came to the Academy November 9 with Cecil Tose, Preparator of the Department of Exhibits. They came, these representatives of the largest species of the deer family (a thousand pounds on the hoof), as skins, skulls, antlers, leg bones, exact measurements, and photographs—to become, when space permits, the central figures of another of our habitat groups of North American mammals.

With twenty-six pack and saddle horses and an Indian guide, Mr. Tose and his host, the big-game hunter William Foster of Rio Vista, California, packed in from Entrance, Alberta, one hundred-fifty miles under the rim of the Canadian Rockies. Before they were driven from the high country by the beginning winter snows, the moose hunters had seen and photographed mountain sheep, mountain goats, and caribou. After getting their moose despite the ever-present obstacle of windfallen timber, the party trekked back through lower country to avoid heavy snow.

Personal observation of the spectacular country which is to form the background of the moose group will prove invaluable to Mr. Tose in the preparation of the exhibit.



### WILD FLOWERS OF THE EQUATOR

HOWEVER FAITHFULLY the camera may record detail and delicate color, it yields still to the trained and apperceptive artist in the lucid representation of nature's most exquisite forms. Whether you agree or not with this opinion, you may enjoy a rare treat in the work of Miss Catharina Maria Barnas now being shown in the Mineral Hall corridor of the West Wing. Her seventy-four plates of the wild flowers of Ecuador—ranging from the luxuriant forms of the dense tropical forest flora to the fairylike dwarf alpine blossoms of the crest of the Andes—combine flawless delineation with prismatic color. Her thirty-five miniature-size plates of Ecuadorian fungi are enriched by the deep tones of their natural background of jungle humus.